

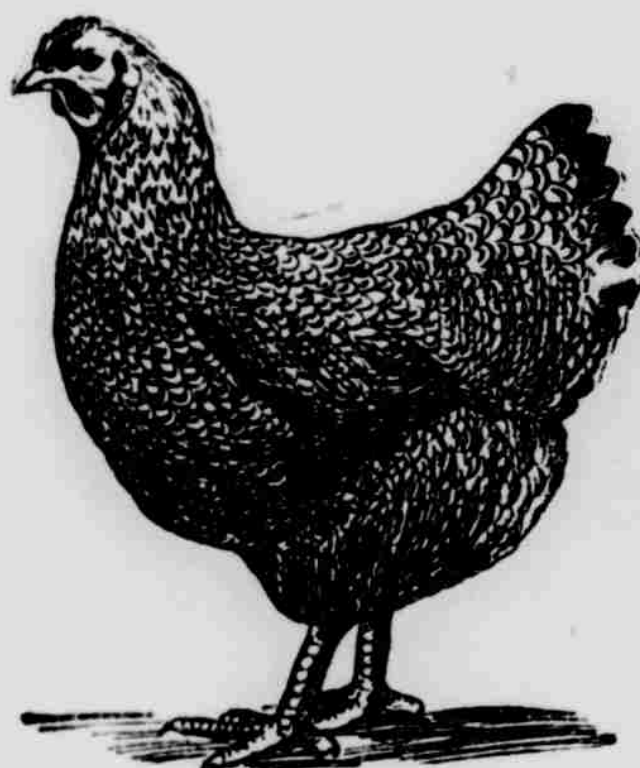
## GROWING INTEREST IN POULTRY

Although There is a Constantly Increasing Interest Being Manifested by Farmers and Others in Poultry Raising, There Seems to Be No Sign of an Over Supply of Poultry Products and the Prices Remain Good.

By J. WELDER.

The farmer's ideas of poultry-raising have changed considerably from what they were a few years ago. Everywhere on the farms a more intelligent interest is being taken in the subject.

The farmer at last has realized that the poultry is a good source of income, and is willing to take some trouble and spend a little money, to make it even more so, instead of leaving the womenfolk to struggle



along with the fowls as best they may, without any help or conveniences.

He used to think, you know, that his part of caring for the poultry was done when he set the dog on them to drive them out of the barn, or threw rocks and "chunks" at them to drive them away from the hog-trough.

The fowls were mongrels, and no new blood was introduced into the flock for years, the same stock being kept until they died of old age, if they escaped the Sunday dinner of chicken and dumplings. Sometimes a little grain was thrown to them and sometimes they were left to live on what they could steal.

They roosted in trees, or on the fences all summer and as long as they could, without freezing, in the fall. Then they crawled into some corner of the barn or among the hay-stacks, and survived the winter, with the loss of their combs and wattles, and sometimes their toes, by freezing.

Not much in the way of eggs was expected of them, and they fully realized these expectations. Usually they did not supply what eggs were needed in the farmer's family, and the farmer often remarked to his wife: "Your chickens are a perfect nuisance. I can't set a thing down but they are into it," (poor things! it was that or go hungry!) "and they don't lay an egg."

Conditions are changing. The most of the responsibility for the poultry, on the farms, still rests on the women, but instead of being considered a nuisance, the fowls are treated with respect and consideration, as an important part of the business of the farm. They have neat, comfortable houses, and yards, and scratching-sheds, where they can be contented and happy, and keep industriously at work in cold as well as warm weather. The farmer and his wife both, now feel it to be a reflection on their management, if the hens do not lay more eggs than the family uses, in winter as well as summer.

It is a common thing to see a beautiful flock of pure-bred poultry on a farm and when farmers or farmers' wives meet, it is seldom they part without asking: "How are your hens doing? Are they laying well?" and unless it is already known, they are sure to ask each other: "What breed of hens do you keep?"

They are studying the poultry business in all its details, and are eager to learn of better ways of caring for their fowls, and of conveniences to use about the work.

In some neighborhoods the women of the farm meet on certain afternoons, to talk over their experiences with their poultry; to discuss the questions of feeding and caring for them, and to read together the poultry helps to be found in the agricultural sections of the newspapers.

This interest is not confined to the farms, but is also felt in the small towns and villages. At the meetings of the aid societies, you will hear discussions on how to care for the hens to make them lay and many a woman living in a small town, helps out her husband's income by nearly, or quite paying the grocery bills, with eggs and poultry, from a small flock of pure-bred fowls, kept in the yard.

#### Young But Accomplished.

(Philadelphia Bulletin.)  
Woman—Does that parrot swear?  
Dealer—Very prettily mum, for so young a bird.

Argentina's financial crisis that began in 1912 has been so severe for the last two years that there were few speculative values to be injured by the world-wide stringency caused by the European war.

## COMFORT OF THE DAIRY HERD.

In Order To Successfully Maintain a Good Dairy Herd, The Owner Must Provide Adequate Equipment With Which To Care For His Animals in at Least Three Essentials—Comfort, Cleanliness and Convenience.

Good stable management is an important factor in determining the profits from the dairy herd during the winter. The first essential is that the cows be comfortable, because a cow kept otherwise can never do her best.

She must have a comfortable place to lie down, stand up, move and stretch her limbs and lick herself all over the body. She must have sunshine and plenty of light. She must have pure air to breathe, and this means that the stable must be provided with some system of ventilation to give a frequent change of air.

This need not be expensive, only a little forethought and a few dollars' worth of material and labor. She must have good pure water at least twice a day, or better still, have an automatic water-basin at her side.

The stable should be cleaned daily, and be thoroughly disinfected. The ceiling, floor and sides should be all smooth, and of concrete construction, and the fixtures largely iron. It is not expensive, and they are sanitary and permanent.

Large, smooth, concrete mangers for feeding are about the best we know of today. Judgment and common sense must be exercised in the methods of feeding and handling the cows. Fixed rules in feeding are not practical.

Overfeeding is wasteful; under-

feeding is unprofitable. The cows must be well nourished at all times, but if given more than they need for maintenance and production, they waste it, as a rule.

The quality of milk—that is, the amount of milk and fat that it contains—is controlled more by the constitutional characteristic of the cow than by the feed.

Never stir up dust or foul odors at milking time. If you do, a lot of it is sure to get into the milk.

Whether to feed the cows just before milking is a much debated question. It is not at all dangerous to feed them a little grain, provided you stir up no dust or disagreeable odors.

As a rule, the cows will give down their milk more freely when they have contented minds, and a little of the right kind of feed goes a long way toward bringing about this contented state of mind. Never clean the stable just before milking, for it will stir up a tenfold worse odor than any feed the cows will eat.

If there is any question before the farmers of this country of more importance than that of conserving the soil's fertility, I am not cognizant of it.

The most important business of dairy farmers is to increase the quantity of manurial substances and apply it where it is most needed.

All of the manure, both liquid and solid, should be saved and applied to the land. I believe it is best to haul it from the stable to the field and apply it as fast as made.

When all the liquids have been saved by the use of absorbents, large amounts of manure may be made and, if it is hauled to the fields direct from the stable, these liquids will drain

into the soil to the depth of the furrow slice, and there will be little loss from exposure.

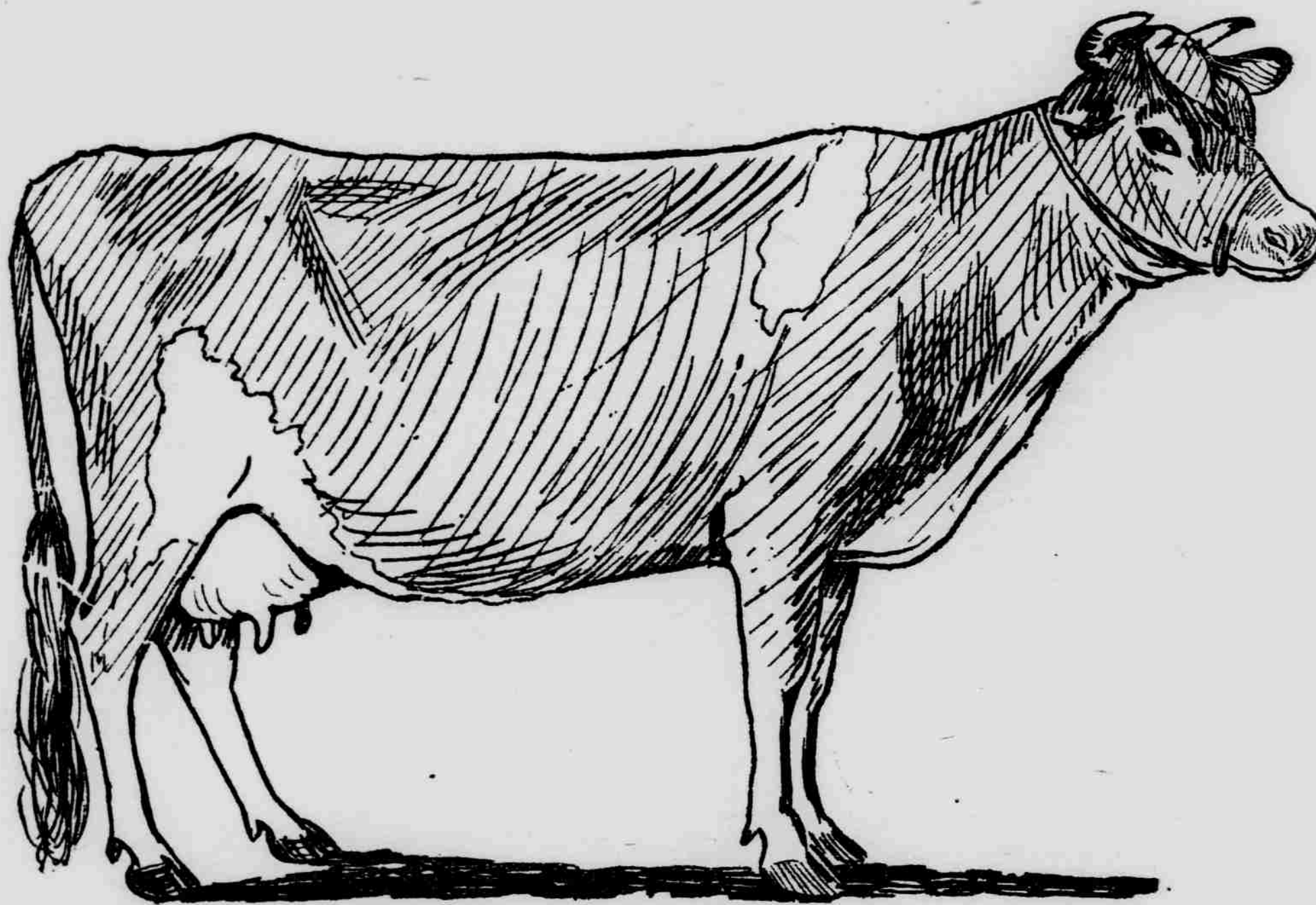
In addition, the cows will not be waddling knee-deep in the mire and filth every time they are turned out in the yards for water and exercise. Most of the work comes at a time when other farm operations are slack, and the soil, besides being enriched, plows easier and works up better during the whole of the next season, on account of being made porous by being covered with manure during the winter.

When hauling the manure from the stable to the field we plan to haul to the farther fields while the ground is frozen and close to the barn while soft and muddy.

There is no reasonable excuse for a dairy farmer to allow more than one-third of his manurial fertility to wash away in a dirty, filthy barnyard, and spend one or two weeks during the busy season in the spring to haul it across the muddy fields to get it on his land.

Cleanliness can best be secured in a stable of plain, smooth, construction inside. The walls, ceilings, stalls, etc., should be smooth and tight, and, if possible, washable. The relation of cleanliness to a wholesome product and to the health of the cows is vital.

Convenience has to do with the possibility of doing the dairy work easily and rapidly. This is best accomplished by storing all tools and supplies as near to the place where they are to be used as may be consistent with sanitary precautions. If a barn is properly located and arranged, there is no valid objection to storing feed above the cattle other than the greater loss in case of fire.—W. M. Kelly.



"GOLDEN FERN SENSATION," A PRIZE WINNER AT NATIONAL DAIRY SHOW.

## PROFITABLE SWINE FEEDING.

Hog Raising Is a Most Important Branch of Farming, But in Order That The Work Be Made a Source of Gain The Feeding Facilities and Available Feeds On The Farm Must Be Taken Into Account.

By J. G. FULLER.

Forage crops constitute a most important part of the food supply for swine. Since there is little or no profit in feeding hogs on grain alone, the swine raiser should arrange to develop his market animals as much as possible on dairy and farm products and forage crops, leaving the heavy grain feeding for the fattening and finishing period. Most forage crops are suited to swine feeding, and in proper condition and stage of growth, provide at least a maintenance ration.

Native blue grass is a satisfactory pasture for the spring and early summer months or before it becomes dry and ceases to grow. By the middle of July this forage is of little value in many sections, as it is too dry, and from then until the fall rains begin to revive it again, should be supplemented with rape or other of the forage crops that can be grown for swine. However, it does furnish the first green feed in the spring and is always relished.

Rape has proven a valuable forage for swine. The animals are kept on blue grass until this gets too dry, and are then turned into a field of rape. The rape should be sowed in three plats and at intervals of about three weeks. At the Wisconsin station the Dwarf Essex variety is used and is sowed in drills 28 inches apart at the rate of six pounds to the acre. The drills are run lengthwise of the lot, so that the animals will not trample down the rape in going to and from the field. If the pigs are turned onto a fresh piece after the first plot has been cropped the plants will grow up again providing another crop of forage by the time the latest sown plots

are eaten off. The rape stalks should not be too closely pastured after the leaves are eaten off. When this plan is followed, the rape should be from 14 to 18 inches high when the pigs are turned into it. For less intensive feeding, where fewer animals are to be kept on the same piece of ground for a longer period, rape is sown broadcast with oats and clover. Five pounds of rape, six pounds of clover, and one bushel of oats are sown to the acre. The swine should not be turned into this until the crop is from eight to ten inches high, after which each acre with a good stand of the crop will supply 15 spring pigs with forage for the rest of the season.

Clover, before it becomes matured, is a most valuable forage crop for



Thrifty Hogs Fed on Forage Crops.

swine. For the corn belt, clover and corn make one of the best combinations known for cheap pork production. Because of the tendency of clover to kill out, it is most satisfactorily grown in a rotation with other farm crops rather than in small plats to be intensively stocked. But whether or not clover is a satisfactory forage for swine depends largely on the season as affecting growth, the stand, and the state of growth at which this is fed. Under favorable conditions, red clover has been found even more profitable than rape as a forage for spring pigs. The value of alfalfa for

growing swine has been fully demonstrated in the Western States, where it is grown abundantly, but in some of the North Central States it has not been grown to any great extent and, as yet, in those States, the value of this forage crop cannot be fully estimated.

The use of clover, alfalfa, rape or a red-clover-and-oat mixture properly grown for forage should make a saving of from 25 to 30 per cent in the grain ration for growing and fattening swine. To get the best results, the crop must be carefully seeded, fed at the right stage of growth, and never overstocked at the beginning of the feeding period or trampled when the ground is wet. An acre sown to these crops, properly grown and cared for, should furnish forage for about four months for 15 to 20 spring shoats. Then, to finish the animals for market, heavy grain feeding is begun.

#### Some Vastness.

(Puck.)

Mr. Wayup—This is a great big land of ours.

Mr. Blase—That's right, and a fellow doesn't realize it till he travels. Why, you can actually go to places in this country where you don't owe anybody.



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